

REMARKS

Applicants request entry of this amendment, reconsideration and allowance. In response to the November 15, 2006 Office Action, Applicants respond to the Examiner's detailed action with the following remarks numbered according to the Examiner's communication.

Applicants have amended the Claims 10, 14, 19, and 33. The amended claims do not present any new issues, rather placing the claims in better condition for allowance or appeal. Applicants have amended the claims to read that the bent portions of the leads are covered by the molded housing. Claims 10, 14, and 33 have been amended to clarify the language already within these claims, thereby stating clearly that the first lead is disposed between the second and third lead. Claims 10 adds the limitation of forming the molded housing on the bent portions, which is referenced in Claim 12. Similarly, Claim 33 adds the same limitation found in Claim 34. Claim 14 adds the same limitation as found in Claims 12 and 33, which references forming the molded housing on the bent regions of the leads. Again, there are no new issues raised by the amendments to Claim 14. Lastly, Claim 19 combines the elements of cancelled Claim 20. Accordingly these amended claims do not raise new issues regarding patentability.

1. Applicants believe that there are no minor errors in the specification, however, if any errors are found, Applicant will notify Examiner and correct any such errors.
2. Applicants have amended Claims 10, 14, and 18 to eliminate all objections raised by Examiner regarding minor typographical errors and antecedent basis.

3-4. Applicants have amended Claim 33 to identify that "the lead" refers to any of the first, second, or third leads, thereby clarifying the claim language to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

5-6. While Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejection of Claims 10-11, 13-15, 17, 19-20, 22-23, 25-26, 29-30, 33-34, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by admitted prior art (APA), Applicants have amended Claims 10, 14, 19, and 33 and cancelled Claim 11, 20, and 34 without prejudice.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Claims 10, 14, 19, and 33 have been amended to include the limitation of the molding material to cover the bent regions of the leads, an element not taught by the APA, thereby making the these claims and their dependent claims distinguishable over the APA. The APA does not show the bent regions of the lead as being covered by the housing (See Fig. 4 and 5 cited in the Office Action dated November 15, 2005). As such, Claims 10, 14, 19 and 33 are not anticipated by the APA because the APA does not disclose the limitation of the molded housing formed around the bent regions of the leads. The APA does not teach every limitation of the claims rejected as amended under section 102(e). Accordingly, Applicants believe the claims as amended are in condition for allowance.

7-8. Responsive to the Examiner’s rejection of Claims 12, 16, 18 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA and Claims 21, 24, 27-28, 31, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of U.S. 5,859,387 (Gagnon), Applicants have amended Claims 10, 14, 19, and 33 to include the aforementioned limitation of the molded housing formed over the bent regions of the leads and cancelled Claims 11, 20, and 34 without prejudice.

Applicants have amended Claims 10, 14, 19, and 33 to include the limitation of forming the molded housing over the bent portions over the leads. Claims 12, 18, and 35 depend from the aforementioned claims thereby incorporating these limitations. The APA does not teach this limitation, nor would it have been obvious to one skilled in the art to cover the bent portions of the leads with the molded materials. Further, there is no motivation or suggestion to make complex molds formed over the bent portions of the leads to increase the creepage distance between the leads.

The addition of Gagnon to the APA does not render any of the claims obvious because Gagnon shows coverage of the leads beyond the bent portions of the leads. However, Gagnon does not teach an invention that uses complex molds. Gagnon teaches a flat shape between leads and does not suggest leaving voids in the molding material to

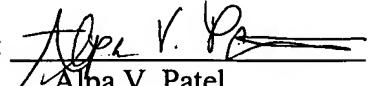
increase creepage distance. Further, the APA does not show the use of molded housing to cover the bend regions. These references together do not teach the claimed invention because there is no intricate or complex molds used to increase creepage distance, rather the molds are a simple shape. As such, there is no motivation to combine the references or teaching or suggestion to make the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants believe the amended claims as they stand are in condition for allowance.

Applicants appreciate the opportunity to call the Examiner but believe that this amendment to the claims and the forgoing remarks fully address the issues raised by the Examiner. On the other hand, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if he has any matters to address that will facilitate allowance of the application.

In the event that Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefore and authorize that any changes be made to Deposit Account No.: 50-3010.

In summary, the invention is not shown or suggested by the art applied to the claims, and no new issues are presented by the amended claims. A notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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